United Nations A/54/L.58*

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
8 December 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 20 (f) and 50
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

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A
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/88 B of 19 December 1995, 51/195 B of 17 December 1996, 52/211 B of 19 December 1997 and 53/203 A of 18 December 1998,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1193 (1998) of 28 August 1998, 1214 (1998) of 8 December 1998 and 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and all statements of the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Noting all recent declarations by participants of regional international meetings and by international organizations on the situation in Afghanistan,

* Re-issued for technical reasons.

99-38036 (E) 081299

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Convinced that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that only a political settlement aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government acceptable to the Afghan people can lead to peace and reconciliation,

Stressing the importance of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and deeply concerned at all forms of continued external support, which is causing the prolongation and intensification of the conflict,

Expressing its grave concern at the failure of all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to put an end to the conflict, which seriously threatens stability and peace in the region, and welcoming the willingness of the United Front to talk to the Taliban in order to reach a solution to the country's problems,

Deeply concerned by the increasingly ethnic nature of the conflict, by reports of persecutions on the grounds of ethnic origin and religious persuasion and by the threat this poses to the unity of the Afghan State,

Strongly condemning the sharp escalation of the conflict, in particular after the launching of a new offensive by the Taliban in July 1999, only one week after the meeting of the "six plus two" group in Tashkent, despite the repeated demands by the Security Council and continuing attempts by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan to avert the Taliban offensive,

Noting with concern the resulting exacerbation of the enormous suffering of the Afghan people, resulting in the massive loss of human life, summary executions, the deliberate abuse and arbitrary detention of civilians, refugee flows, the use of child soldiers, harassment, the forcible displacement of innocent civilians and extensive destruction,

Expressing its grave concern at persistent violations of human rights and at breaches of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, as exemplified by reports of mass killings and atrocities committed by combatants against civilians and prisoners of war, including the finding in the report of the United Nations investigation team for Afghanistan, submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[1] that serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law took place in Afghanistan in 1997 and 1998,

Noting with alarm the massive displacement by the Taliban of the civilian population and, in particular, of women and children, in the Shomali Plains, as well as the indiscriminate destruction of their homes and agricultural land, thereby eliminating their source of income,

Also expressing its grave concern at the continuing and substantiated reports of systematic human rights violations against women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban,

Strongly condemning the capture by Taliban militia of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the murder of Iranian diplomats and a journalist in Mazar-e-Sharif, and stressing that these unacceptable acts, which constitute flagrant violations of established international law, must not go unpunished,

[1] See A/54/626.

Deeply disturbed by the continuing use of Afghan territory, especially areas controlled by the Taliban, for the recruitment, sheltering and training of terrorists, including international terrorists, and the planning of terrorist acts within and outside Afghanistan,

Deeply disturbed also by the continuing use of Afghan territory, especially areas controlled by the Taliban, for the increasing cultivation and trafficking of drugs, as well as by the significant rise in the illicit production of opium, which contribute to the war-making capabilities of the Afghans and have dangerous repercussions reaching Afghanistan's neighbours and far beyond,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universally recognized and impartial intermediary, must continue to play the central role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made in this regard by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, and noting with concern that, following years of continuing negotiation, insufficient cooperation with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General by the parties to the conflict has led to a freezing of his activities,

Noting and welcoming the meeting of the "six plus two" group under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of representatives of the warring Afghan parties, held in Tashkent on 19 and 20 July 1999, and the Tashkent Declaration on Fundamental Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict in Afghanistan[2] adopted during that meeting, as well as the working meeting of the "six plus two" group at the level of foreign ministers, held in New York in September 1999.

Regretting recent reports by the Secretary-General indicating that the "six plus two" group has not yet had the desired impact on the warring parties in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the contacts between the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and various non-warring Afghan parties and personalities, and supporting calls by these independent Afghans for an end to the fighting and any proposals that might advance the cause of peace, including the meeting, in Rome, from 22 to 25 November 1999, of a group of Afghan personalities aimed at the convening of a genuine *loya jirgah* to promote a political settlement,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[3] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. *Stresses* that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the Afghan parties, and urges all of them to respond to the repeated calls for peace by the United Nations;

3. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force and to engage, without delay or preconditions, in a political dialogue, under United Nations auspices, aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict by creating a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government, which would protect the rights of all Afghans and observe the international obligations of Afghanistan;

4. *Welcomes* the intra-Afghan meetings in Ashgabat at the beginning of 1999, and in Tashkent in July 1999, and urges all Afghan parties to take further confidence-building measures with a view to resuming direct intra-Afghan talks;

[2] A/54/174-S/1999/812.

[3] A/54/536-S/1999/1145.

5. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to refrain from all acts of violence against civilians, including women and children;

6. *Strongly condemns* the sharp escalation of the conflict, in particular after the launching of a new offensive by the Taliban in July 1999;

7. *Noting with distress* reports indicating the involvement in the fighting in Afghanistan, mainly on the side of the Taliban forces, of two thousand to five thousand non-Afghan nationals, mostly from religious schools, and some of them still children;

8. *Strongly condemns* the fact that foreign military support to the Afghan parties continued unabated through 1999, and calls upon all States to strictly refrain from any outside interference and to end immediately the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan;

9. *Calls upon* all States to take resolute measures to prohibit their military personnel from planning and participating in combat operations in Afghanistan and immediately to withdraw their personnel and to assure that the supply of ammunition and other war-making materials is halted;

10. *Reiterates its position* that the United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict;

11. *Reaffirms its full support* for the efforts of the United Nations in facilitating the political process towards the goal of national reconciliation and a lasting political settlement with the participation of all parties to the conflict and all segments of Afghan society, and fully supports, in particular, the comprehensive efforts of the Secretary-General, of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and those of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan;

12. *Supports* the intention of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan with a view to assuring its primary role in conducting United Nations peacemaking activities in Afghanistan, in particular by appointing a new Head of Mission, by progressively moving its head office to Kabul and by increasing its presence in neighbouring countries;

13. *Also supports* the intention of the Secretary-General to redouble the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan to achieve a durable and equitable political settlement by facilitating an immediate and durable ceasefire and the resumption of a dialogue between the Afghan parties by instituting a negotiating process leading to the formation of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government of national unity and by continuing to work closely with all countries that are willing to help find a peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict, in particular with the members of the "six plus two" group, while continuing to monitor closely and encouraging the various peace initiatives of non-warring Afghan parties and personalities;

14. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Civil Affairs Unit within the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/203 A of 18 December 1998, and also welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the ongoing process of deployment of a first group of civil affairs officers, including a coordinator for the Civil Affairs Unit, is completed as soon as possible;

15. *Also welcomes* the constitution of groups of interested States to coordinate their efforts as well as the activities of international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and encourages those organizations and States, in particular the

"six plus two" group, to use their influence in a constructive manner in support of and in close coordination with the United Nations to promote peace in Afghanistan;

16. *Supports* the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to work with the "six plus two" group, to seek ways of improving the creativity and effectiveness of the group so as to ensure its more constructive and concrete involvement in a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan and to consult other States on supplementary measures that could be taken in the search for peace;

17. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, and countries concerned to increase their level of cooperation within the framework of the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations with a view to enabling the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan to renew his active involvement in these efforts as soon as possible;

18. *Calls upon* all signatories to the Tashkent Declaration on Fundamental Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict in Afghanistan of 19 July 1999[2] and the Afghan parties to implement the principles contained in the Declaration in support of the efforts of the United Nations towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict, in particular the agreement of members of the "six plus two" group not to provide military support to any Afghan party and to prevent the use of their territories for such purposes, and recalls their call upon the international community to take identical measures to prevent the delivery of weapons to Afghanistan;

19. *Reiterates* its strong condemnation of the armed attacks against United Nations personnel in summer 1998 and the recent attacks against United Nations personnel and property following the imposition of sanctions against the Taliban by the Security Council;

20. *Expresses deep concern* at the lack of tangible progress in the Taliban's investigations of the death, serious injury or disappearance of international or national staff members and other persons employed by the United Nations, in particular the killing of the two Afghan staff members of the World Food Programme and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Jalalabad and of the Military Adviser to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in Kabul, and once again urges the Taliban to proceed with the immediate and thorough investigation of these cases and to inform the United Nations about the progress of their investigation without further delay;

21. *Also reiterates* its strong condemnation of the killing of the diplomatic and consular staff of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e-Sharif and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, expresses deep concern at the lack of progress in the Taliban's investigation of the murders, and once again urges the Taliban to carry out, without further delay, a credible investigation with a view to prosecuting the guilty parties and to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations about the results thereof;

22. *Urges* all Afghan parties to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of persons, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

23. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties, and in particular the Taliban, to end discriminatory policies against women and girls, including their rights to education, work and equal health care, and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of men and women;

24. *Condemns* the continuing widespread violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and urgently calls upon all Afghan parties strictly to respect all its provisions that provide essential protection for the civilian population in armed conflicts;

25. *Strongly demands* that all Afghan parties, and in particular the Taliban, refrain from providing sanctuary or training for international terrorists and their organizations, cease the recruitment of terrorists, close down terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan, take effective measures to ensure that the territory under its control is not used for terrorist organizations and camps and take the necessary steps to cooperate with efforts to bring indicted terrorists to justice without delay;

26. *Condemns* the acts of terrorists based in Afghanistan, including those in support of extremist groups operating against the interests of Member States and against their citizens, deplores the fact that the Taliban continues to provide safe haven to Usama bin Laden and to allow him and others associated with him to use Afghanistan as a base from which to sponsor international terrorist operations, recalls that the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 has demanded that the Taliban turn over Usama bin Laden without further delay, and urges the Taliban to comply;

27. *Reiterates* its call to all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to halt all illegal drug activities and to support international efforts to ban illicit drug production and trafficking, and calls upon all Member States and all parties concerned to undertake concerted measures to stop the trafficking of illegal drugs from Afghanistan;

28. *Takes note* of the severe impact of the illicit drug production and trafficking on Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, and calls for further international cooperation in support of the efforts of the neighbouring States to stop the trafficking of illegal drugs from Afghanistan;

29. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue its crop monitoring and other work inside Afghanistan, including its alternative development pilot projects, and to further develop international measures against drug trafficking;

30. *Reiterates* that the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan belong to the common heritage of mankind, calls upon all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to protect the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan from acts of vandalism, damage and theft, and requests all Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the looting of cultural artifacts and to ensure their return to Afghanistan;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months during its fifty-fourth session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

B
Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/88 A of 19 December 1995, 51/195 A of 17 December 1996, 52/211 A of 19 December 1997 and 53/203 B of 18 December 1998,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and security and causing massive loss of life and

extensive human suffering, further destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Noting with deep concern that the people of Afghanistan continue to suffer from a serious loss of their human rights, which can be largely attributed to the effects of decades of warfare that continues to create a worsening humanitarian crisis,

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance as well as the continued laying of new anti-personnel landmines in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons from returning to their villages and working in their fields,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing security threat to United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel, including locally engaged staff, and by various impediments to their access to affected populations,

Expressing its grave concern at the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular by the Taliban, in Afghanistan and at the inadequacy of measures taken by the warring factions to reverse the situation,

Deeply concerned by the continuing and substantiated reports of violations of human rights, in particular of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, notably, in areas under the control of the Taliban,

Welcoming the ongoing work of gender and human rights advisers appointed by the United Nations, who form an integral part of the office of the United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the visit of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to Afghanistan in September 1999, and looking forward to her conclusions and recommendations,

Expressing its grave concern for the well-being of internally displaced persons, particularly in Kabul and in the Panjsher, Bamian and Kunduz regions, and for the civilian population of Afghanistan living without shelter, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods as a result of the recent fighting, as well as the denial by the warring factions of adequate conditions for the delivery of aid by humanitarian organizations,

Distressed by the loss of life caused by earthquakes and epidemics, and expressing its appreciation to all States, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that have provided emergency relief,

Affirming the urgent need to continue international humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan for the restoration of basic services, as well as the need for the conflicting parties to guarantee the safety and security of the personnel of all international organizations,

Welcoming the principle-centred approach towards humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation in Afghanistan as outlined in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan and in the document entitled "Next Steps for the United Nations in Afghanistan", and the common programming mechanisms introduced by the United Nations, and also welcoming the initiative to establish an independent strategic monitoring unit,

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, and, at the same time, calling on all parties to continue to honour their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care,

Recognizing the need for continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, and welcoming the voluntary return of refugees to rural districts in Afghanistan that are relatively stable and secure,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system, to all States and international and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively, and continue to respond, where conditions permit, to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] and endorses the observations contained therein;

2. *Stresses* that the responsibility for the humanitarian crisis lies with all warring parties, in particular with the Taliban;

3. *Strongly condemns* the recent fighting in the Shomali Plains and the forced displacement of civilian populations, the torching of residential houses, the burning of crops, the cutting of fruit trees and the deliberate destruction of infrastructure;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on the basis of the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, in particular to assure a consistent approach on matters of principle, human rights and security, and appeals to donor countries as well as other humanitarian organizations to cooperate closely with the United Nations taking into account the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to Afghanistan for 2000;

5. *Calls upon* the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the desire of the Afghan people for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development;

6. *Urges* all Afghan parties to respect international humanitarian law and to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel and the protection of the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, so as to facilitate their work;

7. *Demands* that all Afghan parties fully cooperate with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other agencies and humanitarian organizations in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan, and urges them to secure the uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to all in need of it;

8. *Condemns* all blockades or other interference in the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies to the Afghan people as a violation of international humanitarian law, and notes the recent lifting of the blockade in central Afghanistan by the Taliban;

9. *Strongly condemns* the recent acts of violence in Kabul, Farah, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz and Jalalabad directed against United Nations offices and personnel;

10. *Urges* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to ensure safe and unimpeded access for and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine, shelter and health care, especially in the Panjsher valley;

[4] A/54/297.

11. *Takes note* of the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban, on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, and urges the Taliban to take the necessary steps for its full implementation;

12. *Denounces* the continuing discrimination against girls and women as well as ethnic and religious groups, including minorities, and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban, notes with deep concern their adverse effects on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan, and calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, *inter alia*, the International Covenants on Human Rights;[5]

13. *Strongly urges* all the Afghan parties to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of women and men, including their rights to full and equal participation in the life of the country, freedom of movement, access to education and health facilities, employment outside the home, personal security and freedom from intimidation and harassment, in particular with respect to the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid, notwithstanding some progress made with respect to access to education and health care for girls and women;

14. *Urges* all Afghan parties to prohibit conscripting or enlisting children or using them to participate in hostilities in violation of international law;

15. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective, that it actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and that women benefit equally with men from such assistance;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, appeals to the Governments concerned to reaffirm their commitment to international refugee law on the rights of asylum and protection, and also calls upon the international community to do so and to consider providing further assistance to Afghan refugees;

17. *Expresses concern* over the continued laying of anti-personnel landmines, and urges all Afghan parties to put a complete halt to the use of landmines, which continues to take a heavy toll on civilians and seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

18. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, when conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally and forcibly displaced persons;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary-General on 23 November 1999 for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2000, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

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[5] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".